

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

June 11, 2012

Robert Wimple, USAF (Retired)
Director, Legislative Affairs
Defense Logistics Agency
Department of Defense
8725 John J. Kingman Road
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6221

Dear Director Wimple,

I am pleased to write in support of the proposal submitted by the Buffalo Niagara International Trade Foundation (BNITF) to the Defense Logistics Agency for funding from the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP). Funding will allow BNITF to establish the Niagara Procurement Technical Assistance Center (Niagara PTAC) in the Buffalo Niagara Region.

The Buffalo Niagara Region recently has made great advancements in economic restructuring, but many challenges lay ahead. The establishment of the Niagara PTAC will provide necessary resources for businesses to grow and compete, not only nationally, but on a global level. The Buffalo Niagara Region is poised for future growth and the Niagara PTAC has potential to maximize federal contract awards by mentoring qualified contractors in government procurement, while enhancing small business competitiveness and positively impacting economic development in the form of retained and created jobs, while bringing new revenue into the region.

BNITF specializes in funding and facilitating delivery of export-focused training, educational programs, and international trade services that result in companies establishing or expanding into new markets. Over the past three years, BNITF has assisted local companies in securing \$38.7 million in new export sales and helped create or retain over 200 jobs. Funding from PTAP will enable BNITF to offer programmatic development, workshops, seminars, one-on-one counseling, extensive curriculum development, outreach efforts and business visits for area companies. BNITF is willing to match every dollar in federal support from DLA, up to \$200,000, per year.

Once again, I am pleased to support the application submitted by the Buffalo Niagara International Trade Foundation to the Defense Logistics Agency for funding from the Procurement Technical Assistance Program. I hope you will give their application full and fair consideration and respectfully await your decision. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Kathy C. Hochul
Member of Congress